
DOC SPECS

Author: Political Circle
Status: Final
Date: 31st May 2024
Intended audience: The Movement
Purpose: To provide detailed guidance on the Political Influencing Campaign

UK Political Circle Political Influencing Campaign

What is the objective?

To apply pressure to the Labour party in the run-up to the General Election to support a policy of committing to a UK-wide citizens' assembly on climate and ecological justice (CACEJ), in line with XRUK's central demand.

Background

Labour is likely to form the next government, so it makes sense to focus on Labour in preference to other parties. It is too late to get them to change their manifesto, but grassroots pressure in target seats in the run-up to the election is the tactic most likely to provide a sufficient incentive for Labour to adopt this policy once in government.

We anticipate that the Liberal Democrats will include this policy in their manifesto (it is already current party policy) and if this is the case then we can use this to our advantage.

Which constituencies should we target?

The proposed approach recommends that we mobilise in those seats being targeted by Labour and where the Lib Dems pose a threat. These seats are listed below.

Constituency	Region	Held By
Cities of London and Westminster	London	Conservative
Chelsea and Fulham	London	Conservative
Wycombe	South East	Conservative
Rushcliffe	East Midlands	Conservative
Hitchin	East of England	Conservative
Truro and Falmouth	South West	Conservative
Derby North	East Midlands	Conservative
Milton Keynes Central	South East	Conservative
Hastings and Rye	South East	Conservative
Keighley and Ilkley	Yorkshire and the Humber	Conservative
Hendon	London	Conservative
Reigate	South East	Conservative
Harrow East	London	Conservative
Bournemouth East	South West	Conservative
South Ribble	North West	Conservative

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Rebels can of course mobilise in constituencies elsewhere in the UK, but without a Lib Dem threat there will be less leverage and so it may be more difficult to influence the Labour candidates in these seats. (For ideas in other constituencies, see Political Circle's [General Election guidance](#))

What are we asking Local/Regional groups and rebels to do?

Actions

Actions should be planned in order to draw attention to support for a UK-wide citizens' assembly on climate and ecological justice. The action can take any form, but the overriding objective should be to get **media coverage**, since this is what political parties take most notice of during an election campaign. The action should be "friendly", non-disruptive and non-spicy, as at no point do we want XR to be seen as disrupting the normal democratic process.

Please refer to the [CA Action Pack](#) for ideas on CA-themed actions.

Political liaison

There are three steps to take:

1. Meet with the Lib Dem candidate and/or party organiser, congratulate them on their party's support for the policy, and encourage them to include reference to the policy in their local campaign flyers, posters etc. and in the candidate speeches, interviews, social media posts, blogs etc.
2. Meet with the Labour candidate and/or party organiser, express your support for a CACEJ, and ask them if they will advocate for this policy within the party. You can mention that you are aware that the Lib Dems are already supporting this policy.
3. Take part in hustings, and use this as an opportunity to ask candidates if they will support a CACEJ. The Lib Dem candidate saying "yes" will put added pressure on the Labour candidate to do the same.

Comms

The most effective way of creating a "buzz" around a particular policy is through comms. So an active social media campaign in the constituency can quickly generate the sense that this is an issue that resonates with the local electorate and something that candidates need to pay attention to. Steps can include:

1. Using social media channels to publicise local actions and support for a CACEJ
2. Using the XR mailing list to contact local rebels and get them on board

How do we mobilise?

A small group of committed rebels can achieve a lot, but an even greater impact can be achieved if this is done in collaboration with other local organisations, so taking advantage of existing networks and connections is really valuable.

Another important consideration is that in some constituencies, any direct association with XR may be viewed negatively and this could impact the likely success of the campaign. As a consequence, campaigning should not be seen as being organised by XR, but by local constituents - ordinary voters who are concerned about the future of the

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planet and want their politicians to step up. This is not about XR, it's about getting a demand met, and in a general election context, bigger numbers of constituents will get attention.

Please let us know if you plan to mobilise: xrukpolitical@gmail.com

Non-party political

At no point does this approach suggest that rebels or anyone else should be voting for any particular party. We are simply drawing attention to support for a CACEJ and encouraging candidates to advocate for this policy within their party.

FAQs

Why are we focusing on Labour?

Labour is almost certain to form the next government, so it makes sense to focus our efforts on them.

Why are we only mobilising in a small number of seats?

We are proposing that rebels mobilise in those seats where the Lib Dem poses a threat to Labour, by taking valuable votes away from Labour. Rebels can of course mobilise in constituencies elsewhere in the UK, but without a Lib Dem threat there will be less leverage and so it may be more difficult to influence the Labour candidates in these seats.

What's the significance of the Liberal Democrats?

Included in the current [Lib Dems climate policy](#) is a commitment to a UK-wide citizens' assembly. We expect that this will also be included in the manifesto for the general election. We can use this as a means to exert pressure on Labour to adopt a similar policy.

What if the Lib Dem manifesto doesn't include a commitment to a citizens' assembly?

We can still use the fact that this is Lib Dem party policy, even if it's not in the manifesto.

Don't the Green Party also support citizens' assemblies?

While the Greens are broadly in favour of citizens' assemblies, they don't have a specific policy so we can't use this as a way to pressure Labour in the same way as we can with the Lib Dems.

Are we advocating voting for the Lib Dems and/or tactical voting?

No. XRUK is non-party political and so does not endorse any party and does not advocate tactical voting in order to favour one party over another.

Why are asking parties to support a citizens' assembly rather than a specific climate policy?

The central demand for a UK-wide citizens' assembly remains a core aspect of the Movement Strategy and Action Strategy. Beyond demanding that the UK government tells the truth and acts now, XRUK has always held the position that it should not define how the climate and ecological emergency should be addressed. Rather, we are calling for an upgrade to the democratic system, whereby decisions on what should be done are made

by ordinary people rather than by politicians alone, in order to determine long-term solutions that are fair, free of influence by vested interests, and in the best interests of the country as a whole. In this way, we avoid any debate in the run-up to the election about what and who represents “good” climate policy or which specific solutions should be favoured above others.

Further information

- [Supporting information](#) on citizens' assemblies and XR's central demand
- More questions? Please use Political Circle Reception on Mattermost, or email us on xrukpolitical@gmail.com